



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Krivitski, Nikolai M. Atty. Docket: 86017.000010
Serial No.: 09/419,849 Examiner:
Filed: October 19, 1999 Art Unit:
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO MEASURE BLOOD FLOW BY
INTRODUCED VOLUME CHANGE

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the claims as follows:

Please add the following new claims:

26. A method for determining an initial blood flow rate in a conduit, comprising:

- (a) introducing a volume of an indicator into the conduit to create a discrete volume change in the initial flow and a liquid characteristic change in the conduit;
- (b) optically sensing the liquid characteristic change in the conduit with a sensor located external to the conduit; and
- (c) determining the initial blood flow rate in the conduit in response to the introduced volume of indicator and the sensed liquid characteristic change.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein introducing the volume of the indicator includes introducing a change in blood hematocrit in the conduit.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein introducing the volume of the indicator includes introducing a solution including at least one of saline and glucose into the conduit.

29. The method of Claim 28 further comprising introducing an isotonic solution into the conduit.

30. The method of Claim 26, wherein optically sensing the liquid characteristic change includes obtaining a value proportional to the liquid characteristic change.

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02 FC:202 1.00 CH 39.00 OP